

well as in summer through a water-level swinging glass door. The water is eighty-five degrees, with rising clouds of steam, while at poolside the snow is high and the temperature is very low indeed.

Metro's own greatest excellence is in the beauty of everything which meets the eye. The cars, designed by Jacques Gillon, are of a deep blue enamel. They are spotless and the air within is clean and pleasant. The cars are linked in nine-

car trains, they have clean and simple lines and big rubber tired wheels which make the ride smooth and silent. Each station was designed by a different architect. At Peel Station a local artist, Mousson, created brilliantly colored abstract murals; at Bonaventure the high-vaulted walls give the sequence of vast domed chambers a cathedral quality. A multi-colored ceramic bas-relief "The Poet in the Universe" is at the Crémazie Station.

G. W. Rowley, who is a Scientific Adviser to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, puts a great deal of information in a single crystal sentence. When we ran this essay in April, 1973, we said that in the opinion of the editors, this was one of the best concise accounts of Canada's Eskimos ever written. We still think so.

## "What Are Eskimos?"

SO MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN about the Eskimos it is difficult to retain a sense of proportion. In fact, there are only about 80,000 Eskimos in the whole world — and fewer than 17,000 of these are in Canada. The population of the world is increasing by about 100,000 every day — each day the number of people in the world increases by many more than the whole Eskimo population.

They are the only native people who live in both Asia and America. They live on both sides of the Iron Curtain, and form part of four nations, Russia, the United States, Canada and Denmark.

Most Eskimos call themselves "Inuit", which simply means "men". The word "Eskimo" to describe a member of this race appears to be Algonquin Indian for "raw-meat eater". They have their own language, spoken by themselves and by nobody else; they are a distinctive physical type; and they have a culture which is uniquely their own.

The Eskimo language is not related to any North American Indian language and appears, in fact, to be unrelated to any other group of languages. The grammar is very complicated, and the meaning of words can be modified by adding suffixes. For instance, *tuktoo* means "a caribou"; *tuktoojuak* is "a big caribou", *tuktoojuakseokniak*, "will hunt a big caribou"; *tuktoojuakseokniakpunga* is "I will hunt a big caribou". The most remarkable thing about the Eskimo language is its uniformity over a wide area — an Eskimo from Greenland in the east can make himself understood, though with some difficulty, all the way to Bering Strait, three or four thousand miles away. South of Norton Sound in Alaska and in Siberia, however, a very different situation exists. There are several

distinct dialects and an Eskimo living there cannot be understood by those who live north of Norton Sound. Aleut, the language spoken by the Aleuts of the Aleutian Islands, is now recognized to be an Eskimo language, but it is so different that it was once considered to be a completely separate language.



The physical type of the Eskimos is distinctive. Like all Mongoloid people, they have straight black hair, dark brown eyes, high cheekbones, and wide faces. Their skin is yellowish-brown, but it is surprisingly light,

lighter than one would expect from their faces, which are usually sunburnt from the sun on the snow and ice. The babies often have a well defined blue patch at the base of the spine which disappears after a year or two. The Eskimos have shorter arms and legs than the North American Indians, and are therefore rather smaller in stature, but they are not in fact a short race by anthropological standards, and they are as tall as people in many places in western Europe. They are muscular and well-covered and this, together with their bulky and loose-fitted clothes and rather short legs, makes them appear to be stout, but this is a false impression. The ratio of skull breadth to length shows that they are mainly long-headed or dolichocephalic, except in the southwest, where the number of broad-headed Eskimos increases until in the Aleutians the population is as definitely broad-headed as the central Eskimos and Greenlanders are narrow-headed.